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# WORKSHOPS, BIG MIEHLE, LINOTYPE MOVIE HIGHLIGHT IOWAYGOOSE AT PRINTERS' HALL

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By Jim Daggs #695

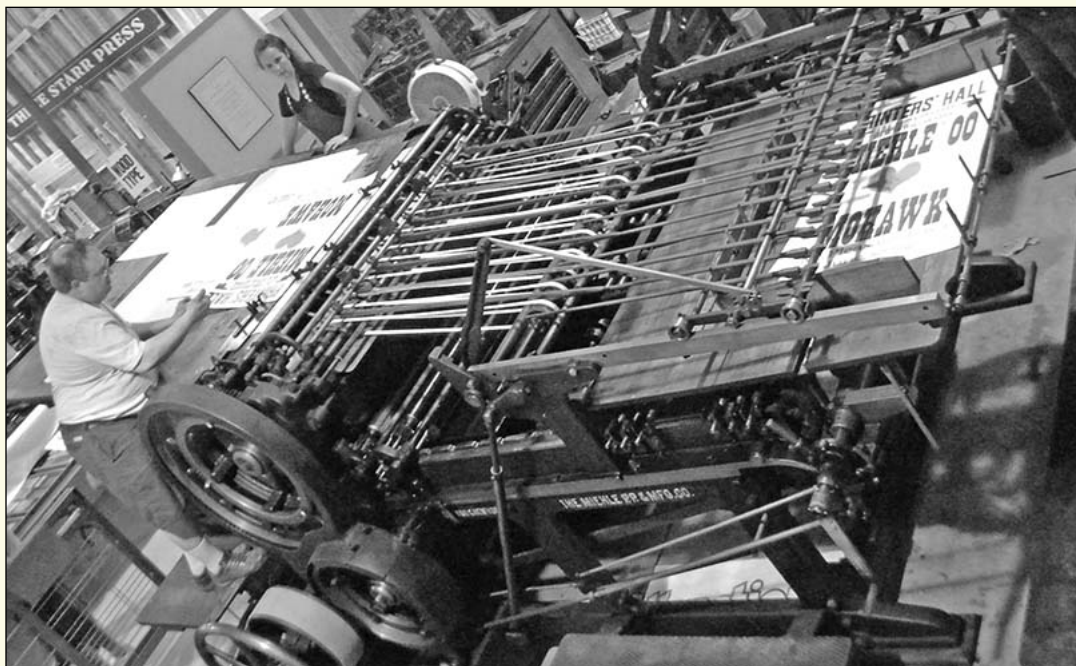
Hosting the Iowayzgoose the last time in 2009, the Iowa/Printers' Hall delegation of APA members decided

to add a new dimension to the 2012 APA Wayzgoose with eight varied workshops for 44 participants.

Printers' Hall was host to 58 APA members, 20 guests, and three ap-

plicants on the waiting list for APA membership at the June 20-23 event in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and the closing Banquet was served to 85 attendees,

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The 30,000 lbs. Meihle Model 00 is the last of its kind in original operating condition and now sits in Printers' Hall. It was in full opera-

tion at the Goose. It was built in 1905 and has a sheet size of 54"x38." Here Jim Daggs and Celene Aubry make some adjustments



for feeding. Above right, Celene makes some final changes in the poster form.





~~Pressmen~~ women Celene Aubry and Sara Wrzesinski handled presswork all day Friday on the Miehle 00.

including honorary guests who were invited to view the inaugural showing of “Linotype . . . The Movie” by Douglas Wilson. Guests included Iowa letterpress printer Tim Fay and his long-time Linotype operator, Eldon Meets, both from Anamosa — who were featured in the movie, along with APA'er Larry Raid. Linotype/Ludlow traveling machinists Dave and Beth Seat were also in Wilson's movie, and were guests at the banquet

Wilson suggested the movie showing in the early stages of planning the Iowasyzgoose, and hoped to make this a surprise addition to the banquet, since he got his inspiration to pursue the movie after his first visit to Print-

# Working the Miehle 00

by Celene Aubry

For the Miehle print project, we wanted to thank Mohawk for the paper, and celebrate the press and the Wayzgoose, so the text for the poster was pretty easy to pull together. Rick von Holdt was quite generous in allowing us to use some of his wood type and ornament, and Chuck Wendel came through with some really nice big wood type (as he did at the Midwest Great Northern event last September). Sara carved the heart, and Jim Daggs was great about letting us run two colors on the press. We hand inked the plate instead of filling the fountain.

We got the type locked up and ran a proof. The speed of the press is variable, so once Jim gave me a lesson on feeding it, it was pretty straightforward — just keep your

eye on the cylinder and get the paper lined up to get picked up by the grippers! The cylinder turns twice for each print. The press is really really quiet and operates smoothly. Really, the only adjustments that we had to make while printing were moving the feeding rollers (that is probably not the correct term) so they did not hit the ink on the paper and leave marks on the white areas of the paper, and to fix work ups in the form.

I would like to do a longer run (we did about 450), and print both sides, so we could fill the fountain, and engage the fly delivery! And of course, the paper size it can accommodate goes up to around 55" x 32" or so, so I'd like to use the entire press bed!

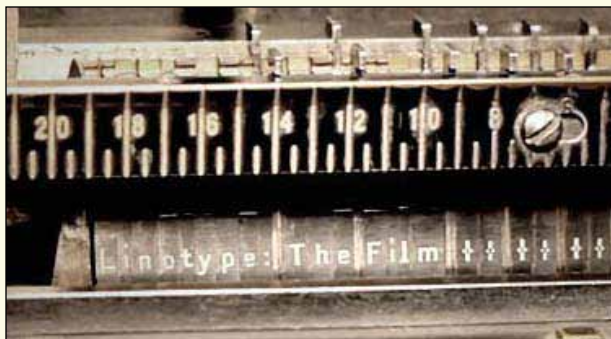


Celene Aubry and Sara Wrzesinski make some final corrections on the poster to be run on the Miehle 00.

ers' Hall a couple of years ago. “This was where it all got started,” he noted as he introduced the 80-minute, theatre quality production, “and I really wanted to make this premier showing here.”

Banquet attendees were also treated to a fine dinner of roast beef and all of the “Midwest-fixins”, including homemade pie and ice cream — prepared and served by the Mt. Pleasant Knights of Columbus in their meeting





hall. “The best and most tender roast beef dinner I’ve ever had,” was among some of the diners’ comments.

The Linotype movie was the perfect ending to an epic Wayzgoose, where Printers’ Hall began the event by flipping on the switch of their huge **#00 Miehle Flatbed Press** moved into the facility last summer.

APA’ers Celene Aubry and Sara Wrzesinski immediately set up a form of large wood type, a heart lino cut by Sara, and other dingbats, to produce an impressive two-color 23”x35” poster on Mohawk Superfine – donated by APA member Jeff Waldvogel, Midwest Regional Sales Manager for Mohawk. The first poster off the press was sold at the auction for \$70 and purchased by Greg Walters and the one-of-a-kind poster with the green and yellow wood type background was purchased for \$50 by Dave Peat.



Platen presses, a Ludlow and Linotypes line one side of Printers' Hall. Goose attendees

had a field day playing with all the toys on Friday.

The Workshops were schedule Wednesday and Thursday, and ended at 5:00 p.m. each day, allowing all wayzgoose attendees to enjoy and utilize all of the Printers’ Hall facilities and equipment in the evenings, and all day Friday and Saturday.

Four workshop students were taken through a thorough dismantling,

cleaning, adjusting and reassembly of the Ludlow by Dave and Beth Seat of Hot Metal Services.

Rich Hopkins took his nine Heidelberg Windmill students through a comprehensive two-day session on press operation, adjustments, maintenance, and production of multicolor, close-register printing. “A number of



# WORKSHOPS



**Bookbinding**



**Ludlow**



**Foil stamping**

the students are now no longer intimidated about working with their Windmills," Rich noted.

Printers' Hall volunteer and Windmill pressman Dean Abbott of Ridgeway, Iowa spent the afternoons after the workshops, and on Friday and Saturday, printing items ahead for the annual Old Threshers' Reunion show at Mt. Pleasant, and had a number of Windmill students hanging around him for some pointers and questions/answers.

Five students were under the instruction of Bill Allan and Maryanne Humphrey in the fine art of foil embossing and die cutting on hand presses. Each student was encouraged to produce a run of items during the course, and "I need to see about getting one of these," was the comment made by Danielle Ameling at the close of the foil-stamping workshop.

The talents of Celene Aubry and Sara Wrzesinski at the Vandercook and the Washington Hand Press were shared with five students who ended their workshop sessions having printed an array of very unique and attractive pieces. Celene and Sara were



**Posters**



**Marbeling**



**Vandercook**



**Heidelberg Windmill**



Saturday morning Goose attendees were ready for the Swap Meet. There were over 35 tables set up in Printers' Hall for the event.

also found throughout the rest of the 'Goose – providing further tutoring and motivation to many others on the presses.

APA member and Printers' Hall volunteer Rick vonHoldt taught a post printing workshop with 6 students. Rick was recently commissioned by the Iowa/Des Moines Arts Council to set up a showing of 100 of his poster projects, and to recognize his award-winning talent in the use of wood type,

color and ornaments in poster printing.

Next to the Windmill workshop in popularity was paper marbling, conducted by Printers' Hall volunteer and budding letterpress artist Melinda Stockwell. Eight students were given a comprehensive study and hands-on course under the enthusiasm, talent and guidance of Melinda – operator of The Calico Press Design Co. of Birmingham, Iowa – just a few country

miles south of Mt. Pleasant.

Rounding out the successful schedule of workshops were Kim Maher and Kathleen Tandy from the University of Iowa's Center for the Book at the Iowa City Campus. Kim and Kathleen conducted workshop hands-on classes in gelatin prints, star book-binding, and long-stitch sewn binding. Several of their students enthusiastically commented that now they can successfully bind their letterpress book projects, using Kim and Kathleen's techniques.

Over 35 vendor tables were set up in Printers' Hall early Saturday morning for the swap meet, and emptying tables and happy buyers and sellers could be found. The auction team of Dave Peat and Bob Magill followed with the ever-popular APA Wayzgoose Auction, netting \$1,087 designated to the APA coffers, and approximately \$2,200 to the sellers.

On Friday, June 22, George and Karen Chapman opened their restored Italianette-style brick home in Mt. Pleasant, and George's "The Bruin Press" to APA visitors for tours and refreshments. George also serves as



a “Resident Printer” at Printers’ Hall, and also helps provide school and Scout tours of the facility throughout the year.

Bill Allan and Maryanne Humphrey took charge of hosting and stocking the Hospitality Suite at the host hotel, and making that time enjoyable for all of the attendees. Bill and Mary-

anne are also enthusiastic volunteers at Printers’ Hall and two of its’ most avid supporters, along with their dedication and support to the APA.

Printers’ Hall volunteer and APA member Steve Alt was on hand to help with various needs throughout the ‘Goose, and also took a number of photos for the 2012 Iowayzgoose

website. Printers’ Hall Director Chuck Wendel was also active in the planning and overseeing of the event. Rounding out the Printers’ Hall volunteers also on duty to assist and demonstrate at the Wayzgoose were Michele Bowden who assisted on the Miehle, and Alice Rohrsen, who demonstrated and operated the Hickok ruling machine during the event.

Plans are in the works to hold the 2013 APA Wayzgoose at the Hamilton Museum in Two Rivers, Wisconsin. Confirmation of this, including dates will hopefully be announced before the end of 2012.

And, looking ahead to 2014, plans are being made for the APA Wayzgoose to be hosted by Cindy and Gary Iverson, and Mike O’Connor in Arizona. It is anticipated that dates for this event will be announced early in 2013.



Auctioneer Dave Peat rakes in the bucks with assist from Bob Magill (far left) and the runners were two

grandsons of Rich Hopkins. Ky Wrzesinski took care of bookkeeping. The auction netted APA \$1087.00.



## 2012 Iowayzgoose

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Front row: Bob Magill, Arlene Popkin, John Finch, Marijane Curry, Chuck Wendel, Phil Driscoll, Dave Peat, Bill Allan, Maryanne Humphrey. Second row: George Chapman, Bob Mullen, Carol Mullen, Steve Hirschberg

, Dennis Bayuzick, Larry Raid, Mike Anton, Patty Anton, George Hamilton, Mel Arndt, Kseniya Thomas, Cindy Iverson. Back row: Joe Warren, Lonnie Smith, Ron Hylton, Arie Koelewyn, Greg Walters, Rick vonHoldt, Jim

Horton, Bob Oldham, Ernie Blitzer, Danielle Ameling, John Deason, Ren Vasilev. Among those absent from photo were Ky and Sara Wrzesinski, Mike O'Connor, Celene Aurby, Steve Alt, Jim Daggs.





# SURFACE ENERGY:

## *Something you've been Dyne to know*

**By John Henry #324**

Someone recently wrote on one of the online “lists” that they were having problems with getting a photopolymer plate to properly ink even though they had just run a type form of metal type without any difficulty. That got me to thinking about what the differences are between the two and why one might be more demanding in the precision of the set-up (plate and roller height, etc.).

Surface energy came to mind as one of the differences between the metal and the photopolymer plates. In very rough terms, surface energy is the willingness of a surface to want to hold on to something applied to

it. You have to get down to investigating the molecular bonds to really understand what is going on. Without all the tools necessary to do that, we can think of the surface as repelling other materials when it has a low surface energy, and a willingness to attract other materials when the surface energy is high.

The nature of the composition of the photopolymer plates has a good deal to do with their ability to hold ink. Metal surfaces have a much higher “surface energy” than polymers. I specify adhesives for various applications in mounting nameplates and labels, and the surface energy of the application surface is of primary importance. The same is true of applying paints and inks to surfaces.

The polymer composite provides a quite

low surface energy, so ink is less willing to bond to the surface, and by the same logic, can be wiped more easily off the surface with too much pressure from the rollers. The rollers must be adjusted precisely to provide a “kiss” contact to the plate so the ink film is split between the roller and the plate surface, and not pushed off the surface to the edges. Of course the same is true of a metal surface, but you have more latitude of adjustment.

Conditions must be correct for these plates to perform at their best, whereas metal image surfaces have a wider latitude of conditions as they are much more ink receptive.

Even various metals are more and less



ink-receptive. I learned this as a student at R.I.T., when in the plate making course we made bi-metal and tri-metal plates where the image areas were copper plated and the backgrounds were chromium plated. Copper being ink receptive and the chromium was not and was more hydrophilic. Of course these were for lithography, but it just serves to highlight the importance of the characteristics of materials and how it can have an effect on ink receptivity.

The dyne level (a measure of surface energy) of surfaces is a measure of how receptive the surface is to the acceptance of other materials. A great example is an aged automobile finish before and after the application of wax. If the wax has worn off the surface, water will spread uniformly across the surface of the paint finish of the car. That means it has a high surface energy. After application of wax and a little elbow grease, the same water will bead up and not spread uniformly. That means the surface has a low surface energy and resists the acceptance of liquids.

Some might say that paste ink is not a liquid, but actually the same characteristics of surface energy apply to a surface's willingness to bond with other fluidic materials. If a surface has a very low surface energy (like a Teflon®-coated surface) nothing which is fluidic will stick to it.

3M Company, in some of their training materials lists a general hierarchy of surface energy. Unfortunately they did not include brass, copper, magnesium or typemetal, but you will get an idea of the differences between metal surfaces and plastic by these numbers:

Substrate Surface Energy In (Dynes/cm)	
Stainless steel	1000
Aluminum	850
Glass	250-500
Nylon 46	
Polyester	43
Polyethylene	31
Teflon®	18

If you note the difference between Aluminum (should be quite similar to magnesium which is adjacent to it on the periodic table by atomic weight) and Nylon and polyester as representative plastic surfaces (the predominate materials used in photopolymer plates are Nylon and PVC (polyvinylchloride)). Although not included in 3M's chart, copper has a dyne level around 1100 and lead (not necessarily the same as typemetal) has a dyne level of 600-1100 depending on alloy.

All this is not to indicate that photopolymer plates as sub-standard or less useful than typemetal or magnesium and copper

engravings. It just could be an explanation of why the photopolymer plates seem to be a bit more finicky in the area of inking.

Photopolymer plates are wonderful for me as I can produce them in my own shop without the acids and oils required for etching magnesium and copper, but I find them just a bit more "touchy" than the metal im-



age carriers. Temperature, humidity, roller settings; all these have an impact on how the ink sits on the surface of the polymer plate.

Of course, it is always the challenge of the printer to get everything in balance and properly adjusted in order to get the best in image quality. As hobby printers, we strive to do our best with the materials and equipment we have at hand to use. The more we understand about those materials and the adjustments of our equipment, the better we can expect our images to be, and the greater the challenge is to improve.



## Kinda gives you Goose-bumps

The lowayzgoose was my first Goose attendance in three years. It took three hours to get to Des Moines from Arizona and then another two hours to get to Mount Pleasant. Prior to the trip, I grumbled just a bit about the longish car ride. Turns out it was another highlight of the trip.



I'm a Minnesota boy (well, old man now) and I used to live in a small town with farms and farming communities surrounding it. So I took the back roads to Mount Pleasant and happy I did. It was a very pleasant and relaxing drive through the Iowa countryside.

People are what make the APA Wayzgoose. I remember some years back Rick von-Holdt said you could have a Goose in a parking lot and it would be a success. What he meant of course was that it's all about the people there.

Jim Daggs

Two people I'd like to mention.

I've been on the "business-end" of these type of events and I know it takes a lot of folks to make it a success...and this was the case at Printers' Hall. But there is usually one who sort of stands out and takes charge, coordinates, and makes sure things are done.

Jim Daggs.

Jim was hard to get hold of at the Goose as he was involved with so many things. And the work at the Goose doesn't even address the countless hours prior to the Goose in getting such an event successfully off the ground.

Congratulations to all the gang at Printers' Hall and a little extra special kudo to the Mayor of Ackley, Iowa—Jim Daggs. Well done.

## Ladies of Letterpress

Many in APA are aware of this organization because I know there are a number of APA members who belong (I belong!). For those who don't know about it, the name of the organization is a tad misleading. Guys are welcomed to join! This, despite the tag on its opening web page: "Dedicated to the proposition that a woman's place is in the print shop."



Kseniya Thomas

I've been impressed since it was first formed. The whole organization is professional and well thought out. The highlight is their **annual conference**—this year it's in Asheville, NC and starts August 2.

I was happy to meet one of the co-founders of the organization at the Goose—Kseniya Thomas, APA 883. We had a pleasant discussion and after meeting and talking with her, I know why the organization is so successful. So many of these "ladies in letterpress" are so impressive!

## PRINT YOUR POSTER

**Deadline: September 1, 2012**

Get your poster printed now

### SIZE:

**Minimum:** 160 sq. inches  
(about an 11x17 sheet)

**Maximum:** 30" width

### NUMBER:

160 copies

### MAIL TO:

Jim Daggs  
617 Main St., Ackley, IA 50601